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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Cradle to Career Initiative in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Illinois Central College, located at 5407 N. University Street, Peoria, Illinois, 61614.

The funding would be used to jump start the Peoria Cradle to Career Initiative (CC), a comprehensive community-based strategy designed to address the critical needs of children and families of Peoria, Illinois Zip Code 61605, one of the most distressed communities in America. The project lays the foundation for the forthcoming program through important assessments of each family's education, workforce training, employment, housing, healthcare, and other needs to become productive and successful members of their community.

With a Distressed Communities Index Score of 99.6 out of 100, Peoria 61605 is ranked as one of the most distressed areas in the nation, according to an analysis of more than 25,000 zip codes conducted by the Economic Innovation Group, with problems ranging from low education attainment, high crime rate, unemployment, poor health outcomes and inadequate infrastructure. To achieve its objectives, Peoria CCI has developed a series of pipeline solutions including education improvement activities to support early childhood readiness, family resource navigation services, academic success coaching, workforce training, summer bridge programming and digital and financial literacy development.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Respectfully,

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
April 28, 2021